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EVILS OF WAR NOT AN EFFECTUAL DISSUASIVE FROM THE CUSTOM.

Not a few seem to think that the evils inseparable from war will suffice to make men averse to the custom itself. They urge a full and vivid exhibition of its effects, as the best, if not the only sure mode of interesting the mass in the cause of peace, and leading them to discard the war-system. They regard the general peace of Christendom for the last twenty-eight years as a legitimate result of the better experience learned in the terrible wars consequent on the French Revolution.

We are far from undervaluing such exhibitions; but we copy from a contemporary newspaper to show how poorly the worst evils of war will suffice for teaching men to abhor and abandon the custom itself.

“MARBLEHEAD.—The inhabitants of Marblehead have always been distinguished for their industry, power of enduring fatigue, physical courage, and patriotism. Most of the men have been bred to the sea, and inured to the rough-and-tumble of life from their childhood, and have furnished, especially in time of war, many brave and gallant seamen for our ships. It is said that at the close of the revolution, when the population was much less than at present, a statement made to the General Court of the sufferers by that war, exhibited the following result: widows, 458; fatherless boys, 364; fatherless girls, 502; total, 1324.

During the last war, the little town of Marblehead furnished 1400 men for the public service; and no ship of war, privateer, fleet or flotilla, prison-ship or depot, was without a goodly number of representatives from this patriotic town. Nor were they all confined to the sea service; they composed one entire company of the fortieth regiment of regular troops, almost another of the Flying Artillery, and many scattering recruits for other services were raised. Many of these brave men were killed while fighting nobly for their country, and others were imprisoned. At the close of the war, Dartmoor, the English prison-house, unfolded her gloomy gates upon five hundred gallant fellows who hailed from this obscure fishing town.!”

These are startling facts—nearly 1400 widows and orphans made by our Revolutionary war on a population probably less than 3000! In 1810, the place contained 5900; and this number furnished 1400 soldiers or seamen for our last war, an average of nearly two to every family, and no less than 500 victims *remaining* in Dartmoor prison *alone* at the close of the war, an average of one to every two families.

A comparison of our militia will give a juster view of this case. In the militia, are enrolled, with a few exceptions, all sound bodied men between eighteen and forty-five years of age; and yet, such an enrollment ordinarily embraces little more than one person in ten; while Marblehead sent forth to our last war, nearly one in four!—and actually *lost* in the war of our revolution an average of about *one-fifth of her whole population!* *

Now, mark the effect of all this. Has it cured Marblehead of her fondness for war? Does she dread, and abhor, and shun it? No; that place is the rankest hot-bed of war we have ever visited, the most averse to the cause of peace, and the most ready to leap again into blood. An aged and excellent minister of the gospel there, familiar with the people for thirty or forty years, once told us he had never known a community so passionately fond of war, and doubted not they would be the first, should another war come, to rush into it with might and main.

MISERY AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF WAR.—Sufferings of every kind are not merely incidental to war; they are inseparable from any of its forms, and constitute its grand, essential elements. They are a part of the system. Misery is its object, or its means; and war, without a fearful waste of property, life and happiness, is an utter impossibility. Its whole business is to plunder, burn and butcher by wholesale; and to talk of a war that did not perpetrate such atrocities and inflict such miseries, would be as contradictory as to speak of vision without light, or of fire without heat.